

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Congressional Oversight Encouraged and BRAC Questioned

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee considered the portion of H.R.1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, that falls under jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

“This is a new era for our military, and we have many pressing issues currently facing our defense forces,” said **Subcommittee Ranking Member Solomon Ortiz (TX)**. “Our challenges include wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the uncertainties of base realignment and closure, the overseas basing changes, and the quadrennial defense review. The only way we can mitigate some of those uncertainties is through continued, vigilant oversight of the Department of Defense.”

“These days Congress seems to be in the business of fixing Rumsfeld’s errors in judgment,” said **Rep. Gene Taylor (MS)**. “With the help of my colleagues on this committee, we’ve been able to correct the body armor and vehicle armors situations he created. And we’re working day and night to get our troops the training and technology for IED jammers. Today we started to clean up another Rumsfeld mistake: shutting down bases during a time of war.”

Rep. Taylor continued, “As I’ve said time and time again, closing bases is a short-sighted, ill-advised, and stupid thing to do. After September 2001, Rumsfeld should have backed down and retracted his plans for this round of BRAC. But he’s stubborn, and on this issue, he’s just plain wrong.”

Information is not considered final until committee passage of H.R.1815.

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